



Freedom Friends OEF/OIF Newsletter



Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
New Jersey Health Care System
Volume 5, Issue 2
Fall 2009

Transition Unit Calendar of Events

Freedom Friends Social Support Group

Lyons Campus

4th Monday of the Month from 5–6 p.m.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Support Group

East Orange Campus

2nd Wednesday of the Month from 2–3 p.m.

Lyons Campus

3rd Wednesday of the Month from 2–3 p.m.

Freedom Friends Readjustment Group

East Orange

4th Wednesday of the Month from 2–3 p.m.

Lyons

1st Thursday of the Month from 2–3 p.m.

Freedom Friends Family Support Group

East Orange (Quarterly)

3rd Wednesday of the Month from 5–6 p.m.

Recreation/Stress Management Group

East Orange

1st Wednesday of the Month from 2–3 p.m.

Lyons Campus

4th Monday of the Month from 3–4 p.m.

Chaplain Group

East Orange

2nd Thursday of the Month from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Lyons Campus

2nd Thursday of the Month from 10–11 a.m.

Welcome Home

WELCOME HOME! During a mere 16-day period, a total of 2,420 soldiers went through a Reconstitution Process at the National Guard Training Center with the help of the New Jersey Army National Guard Staff and supporting personnel. The overall operation was a booming success! Health care professionals from the Department of Veterans Affairs, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Vet Center, and Philadelphia VA Medical Center provided much needed counseling and assistance to returning soldiers who, in turn, remarked how the process made them feel appreciated and cared for.

Typically at various VA facilities throughout our area, over 150 returning soldiers are processed daily for health assessments and home integration support. We are proud to be a part of the continuing effort to provide a warm and welcoming environment for those who have so proudly served our country.





For more information or suggestions for future articles, please contact:

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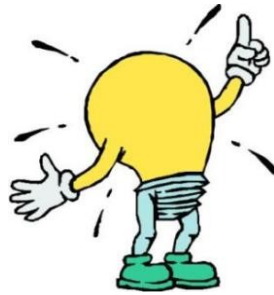
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Helpful Resources for Legal Service

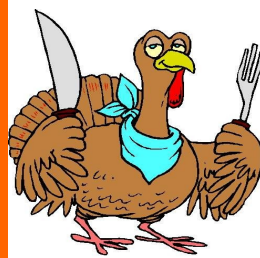


Veterans find themselves with legal problems that cover a wide spectrum. In recognizing their need for legal assistance, the OEF/OIF Team has compiled resources offering solutions to those who have served. Please contact your OEF/OIF Team for specific resources that address your needs.

Introducing: The Lyons House - A Center of Recovery and Hope

The Lyons House opened on January 8, 2008, after years of planning. The goal was to have a place where Veterans can go and have a place to call their own. Lyons House is located in Building 143 in Room W111 and is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy karaoke, open mic, Wii games, Guitar Hero, musical interludes, bingo, recovery discussions, spirituality discussions, sports trivia, recovery jeopardy, word searches, gardening, photography, and anything else Veterans are interested in participating or exploring.

Annual Turkey Drive



The OEF/OIF program will be conducting a Turkey Drive again this year for the Thanksgiving holiday, working with the Marines for the Toys for Tots drive, and working with GI GO sending boxes to troops overseas.

Other News

- We'd like to warmly welcome our new staff members— Barbara O Hanlon, OEF/OIF Social Work Case Manager & Carol Cashin, LCSW, OEF/OIF TBI SW Case Manager. Their efforts are much appreciated.
- The OEF/OIF Team would like to thank Orchid Abar, for her help with our publications. Thanks to Marguerite Franco/Danielle Drucker for their assistance, too.

Upcoming Events

- On Saturday, September 12, 2009, the Annual Homecoming Event will be held in the Auditorium at the East Orange Campus. Enjoy prizes, food, story hour, and other surprises for the whole family! Tours are also available at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1 p.m. in the Museum, OEF/OIF Transition Unit, and the War-Related Illness & Injury Study Center. We hope to see you there!